

Message Text

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73

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 SCA-01

VO-03 INR-07 CIAE-00 L-03 /059 W

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R 021630Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4955

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL PORT SAID

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9049

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF UNHCR EG

SUBJ: REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

REF: CAIRO 7550

1. UNHCR REP HALIM PAID COURTESY CALL ON DCM MATTHEWS WEDNESDAY 30 JUNE.

2. DURING VISIT HALIM REITERATED DESIRE HIS OFFICE ASSIST MOST EXPEDITIOUSLY TO EXTENT POSSIBLE IN EACH CASE OF POTENTIAL REFUGEE REFERRED BY EMBASSY TO HIS OFFICE. HALIM ASKED, HOWEVER, IF: (A) EMBASSY ABLE TO PROVIDE INTERPRETER WHEN APPLICANT SPEAKS ONLY LANGUAGE OF EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRY; (B) THAT WHEN CONTACT FIRST MADE BY INDIVIDUAL(S) WITH EMBASSY OR CONSULATE THAT PERSON(S) BE ASKED MAKE EVERY EFFORT OBTAIN PASSPORT IF SUCH NOT ALREADY IN APPLICANT'S POSSESSION; (C) THAT LODGING BE PROVIDED BY EMBASSY OR CONSULATE AT LEAST FIRST NIGHT EVEN IF PASSPORT IS HELD BY REFUGEE AND HE MANDATED BY UNHCR OFFICE.

3. IN REPLY FOREGOING POINTS, DCM INFORMED HALIM THAT (A) EMBASSY HAS NO INTEPRETER FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN LANGUAGES.

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HOWEVER IF MEMBR OR DEPENDENT OF EMBASSY STAFF HAS

AT LEAST BASIC KNOWLEDGE PERTINENT LANGUAGE, HIS SERVICES WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE DURING ORIGINAL INTERVIEW BY UNHCR REP AND FOR ANY NECESSARY SIMPLE INSTRUCTIONS (AT TIME SAME INTERVIEW) FROM UNHCR REP TO APPLICANT IF MANDATE GRANTED. (B) CONSULS AT ALEXANDRIA AND PORT SAID WILL BE INFORMED OF HALIM'S REQUEST AND ASKED TO STRESS TO REFUGEES THAT POSSESSION OF PASSPORT WILL EXPEDITE HANDLING OF CASE AND DEPARTURE FROM EGYPT; (C) AS IN PAST EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT HOUSE REFUGEE(S) AT LEAST FOR FIRST NIGHT (WE UNDERSTANDABLE MUST AND WILL DO SO WHEN NO PASSPORT IN POSSESSION OF REFUGEE). HOWEVER WITH INCREASING SIZE OF EMBASSY STAFF AVAILABLE HOUSING AT MINIMUM. THEREFORE IT IS HOPED UNHCR REP CAN FIND ACCOMMODATION AFTER FIRST NIGHT FOR DOCUMENTED REFUGEES AND ASAP FOR THOSE REQUIRING ICRC TRAVEL DOCUMENT.

4. HALIM STATED THAT WHEN REFUGEE HOLDS OWN PASSPORT LITTLE OR NO PROBLEM EXISTS FOR UNHCR OFFICE TO EFFECT REFUGEE'S DEPARTURE FROM EGYPT, IN SUCH CASE HALIM SIMPLY INFORMS MININT AFTER REFUGEE'S DEPARTURE. LACK OF PASSPORT NECESSITATES PREPARATION BY HALIM OF COMMUNICATION TO APPROPRIATE MININT SECURITY OFFICE STATING REFUGEE UNDER MANDATE OF UNHCR AND REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR INDIVIDUAL TO REMAIN IN EGYPT UNTIL ICRC DOCUMENT SECURED AND VISA AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS COMPLETED. AT SAMETIME LETTER GIVEN TO MININT, HALIM SEEKS TO OBTAIN TRAVEL DOCUMENT FROM CAIRO OFFICE OF ICRC. (SAMPLES OF BOTH COMMUNICATIONS WERE FURNISHED EMBASSY BY HALIM, AND COPIES OF EACH BEING SENT BY AIRGRAM).

5. UNHCR REP TOLD DCM AND CONSULAR OFFICER THAT UNLESS AND UNTIL SOME UNEXPECTED PROBLEM AROSE WHEN HE (HALIM) COMMUNICATES WITH MININT RE UNDOCUMENTED REFUGEE, HALIM DID NOT BELIEVE IT NECESSARY OR EVEN ADVISABLE FOR EMBASSY TO DISCUSS CASE WITH MFA. HALIM VOICED OPINION THAT UNHCR LETTER TO MININT, AFTER ENDORSEMENT BY THAT MINISTRY RECOMMENDING APPROVAL, WOULD SUFFICE AS NOTICE, SINCE IT SUBSEQUENTLY SENT MFA BY MININT. WE WILL WANT TO WEIGH HALIM'S SUGGESTION ABOUT OUR NOT CONTACTING MFA. ON ONE HAND, FAHMY HAS INDICATED HE IS NOT ANXIOUS TO BE INVOLVED; ON THE OTHER HAND, IF WE FAIL TO INFORM HIM OR RIAD AND AMBASSADOR OF COUNTRY FROM WHICH REFUGEE COMES MAKE FORMAL CONFIDENTIAL

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COMPLAINT, WE COULD FIND OURSELVES IN HOT WATER OR PREEMPTED. ON BALANCE, AMBASSADOR IS INCLINED TO BELIEVE WE MAY BE BETTER OFF BY AT LEAST INFORMING FAHMY OR RIAD SO THAT MFA IS NOT CAUGHT UNAWARES IN CASE EAST EUROPEAN EMBASSIES COMPLAIN.
EILTS

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